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(54) **Method of sterilizing silicone hydrogel contact lenses**

(57) Methods of sterilizing silicone hydrogel contact lenses include exposing one or more silicone hydrogel contact lenses to high energy radiation, such as gamma

radiation or electron beam radiation. Sterilized contact lens packages containing such silicone hydrogel contact lenses are also described.

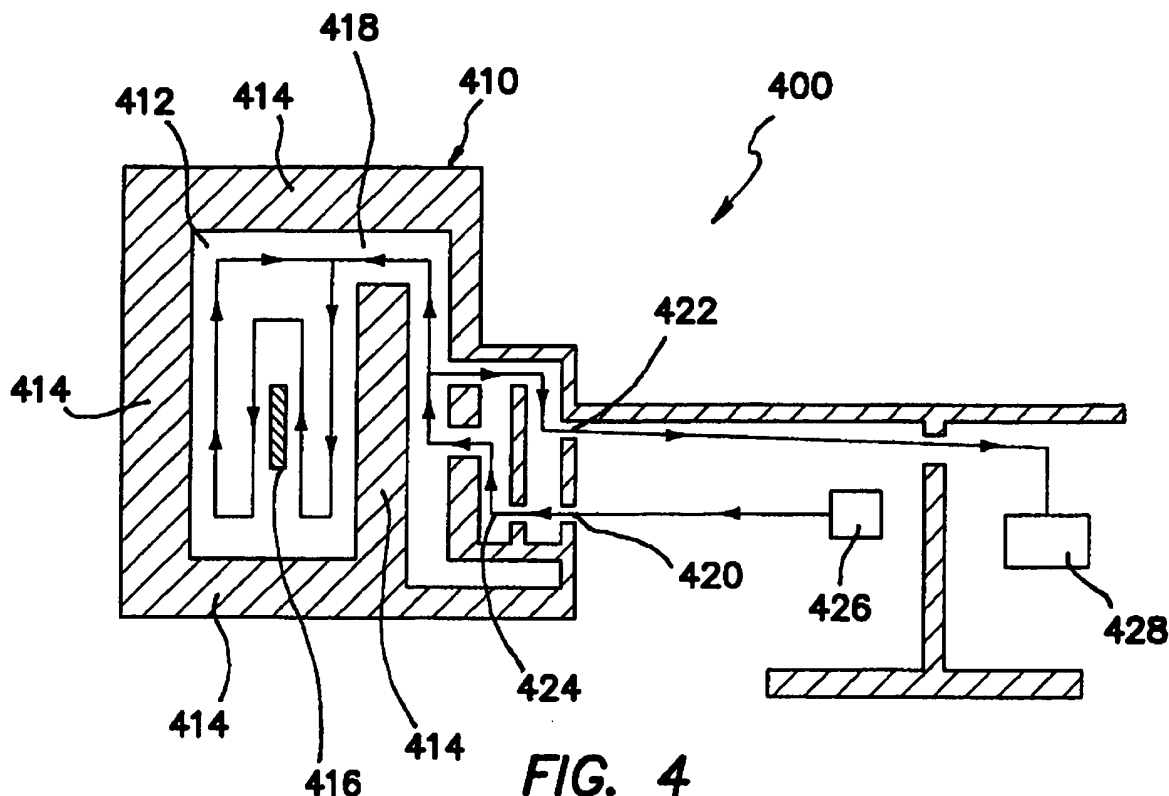


FIG. 4



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EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT

Application Number
EP 06 02 3235

DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT			
Category	Citation of document with indication, where appropriate, of relevant passages	Relevant to claim	CLASSIFICATION OF THE APPLICATION (IPC)
X	US 4 874 562 A (HYON SUONG-HYU [JP] ET AL) 17 October 1989 (1989-10-17)	1-3,6-8, 10,13	INV. A61L12/06
Y	* column 1, line 26 - line 29 * * column 3, line 50 - column 3, line 54 * -----	4,5,9, 11,12	
D,Y	US 5 529 727 A (LABOMBARD DENIS [US] ET AL) 25 June 1996 (1996-06-25) * claims 7-15 *	4,5,9, 11,12	
X	JP 06 312013 A (TOME SANGYO KK) 8 November 1994 (1994-11-08) * abstract * * paragraphs [0002], [0007], [0008] * -----	1-9	
A	EP 0 374 590 A2 (MORCHER KURT A [DE] MORCHER GMBH [DE]) 27 June 1990 (1990-06-27) * claims 1,5 * -----	1-6	
			TECHNICAL FIELDS SEARCHED (IPC)
			A61L
The present search report has been drawn up for all claims			
Place of search Munich		Date of completion of the search 23 February 2007	Examiner Fischer, Michael
CATEGORY OF CITED DOCUMENTS X : particularly relevant if taken alone Y : particularly relevant if combined with another document of the same category A : technological background O : non-written disclosure P : intermediate document		T : theory or principle underlying the invention E : earlier patent document, but published on, or after the filing date D : document cited in the application L : document cited for other reasons & : member of the same patent family, corresponding document	

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EPO FORM 1503 03.82 (P04C01)

**CLAIMS INCURRING FEES**

The present European patent application comprised at the time of filing more than ten claims.

- ☐ Only part of the claims have been paid within the prescribed time limit. The present European search report has been drawn up for the first ten claims and for those claims for which claims fees have been paid, namely claim(s):
- ☐ No claims fees have been paid within the prescribed time limit. The present European search report has been drawn up for the first ten claims.

LACK OF UNITY OF INVENTION

The Search Division considers that the present European patent application does not comply with the requirements of unity of invention and relates to several inventions or groups of inventions, namely:

see sheet B

- ☐ All further search fees have been paid within the fixed time limit. The present European search report has been drawn up for all claims.
- ☐ As all searchable claims could be searched without effort justifying an additional fee, the Search Division did not invite payment of any additional fee.
- ☐ Only part of the further search fees have been paid within the fixed time limit. The present European search report has been drawn up for those parts of the European patent application which relate to the inventions in respect of which search fees have been paid, namely claims:
- ☒ None of the further search fees have been paid within the fixed time limit. The present European search report has been drawn up for those parts of the European patent application which relate to the invention first mentioned in the claims, namely claims:

1-13



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LACK OF UNITY OF INVENTION
SHEET B

Application Number

EP 06 02 3235

The Search Division considers that the present European patent application does not comply with the requirements of unity of invention and relates to several inventions or groups of inventions, namely:

1. claims: 1-13

Method of sterilizing a silicone hydrogel contact lens comprising exposing a silicone hydrogel contact lens to a sterilizing amount of high energy radiation.

2. claims: 14-18

Contact lens package comprising a base member having a cavity for holding a contact lens in a volume of liquid; a sterilized silicone hydrogel contact lens located in a volume of liquid in the cavity, the silicone hydrogel contact lens being sterilized by exposure to high energy radiation; and a sealing member disposed over the cavity to maintain the silicone hydrogel contact lens and the liquid in the cavity in a sterile environment prior to use by a lens wearer.

**ANNEX TO THE EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT
ON EUROPEAN PATENT APPLICATION NO.**

EP 06 02 3235

This annex lists the patent family members relating to the patent documents cited in the above-mentioned European search report.
The members are as contained in the European Patent Office EDP file on
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23-02-2007

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